Second MMR in British Region

Anthony B. Martin earns MMR No. 296

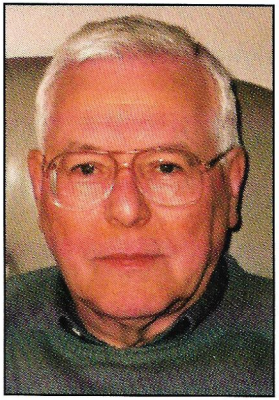
Anthony was born in 1930, the fifth of six children. There were no Lionel 0-27 trains under their Christmas trees but despite this obvious neglect he had a wonderful childhood until the 1939-1945 war broke out! As a youth he was always involved in modeling—aircraft, gliders and boats of every description and London buses.

Tony cannot remember when his interest in trains began but in 1958 he went to Central Africa as a manager in an international bank where he met other ex-patriots who modeled American HO making him an immediate convert. With these friends he founded the Salisbury & District Model Railway Club in South Rhodesia and became its first Chairman. On his return to England in 1962 he joined the NMRA and obtained his first Merit Award for a scratchbuilt structure in 1968.

Raising a family and getting re-established in the banking scene forced modelling to take a back seat for a while but Tony was involved in the 1971 NMRA London Convention for which he built the "Deer Creek" Port-a-Pike. This competition switching pike, 6' x 1'-6" was on duty over the whole convention weekend and was later taken to two conventions in the Netherlands. After 30 years of appearances at numerous British Regional and other meets it has now been 'retired'.

A move to Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, in 1991 after his retirement, gave him the opportunity to start building his "Oakland Division" (based on the B&O Cumberland to Grafton line in 1975). Tony was pleased and proud when it was opened to Conventioneers from the BR Convention at Peterborough last October.

Tony had started to think seriously about the Achievement Program and he earned a Golden Spike Award, Chief Dispatcher and Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical Awards in October 1997. This really spurred him on and he set the goal of achieving MMR in the Millennium year 2000 before reaching the age of 70 (later this year).



In his own words, "I am delighted to have achieved this goal and to become the second MMR in the British Region. Now it is my turn to help others to gain this prestigious award."